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RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0401
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1810
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1687
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 1140
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 5516
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 3327
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 1380
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 3809
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 4942
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 2242
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 002483

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TAGS: [MOPS](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: JAPAN URGES U.S. TO CO-SPONSOR NEGOTIATING MANDATE
ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS AT CCW

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer. Reasons 1.4 (B) (D)

11. (C) Summary. During a June 1 briefing on the May 24-25 Lima conference on cluster munitions (CM), MOFA officials stressed that there had been no change in the Japanese position and that Tokyo still sought to balance security and humanitarian issues. Citing concerns about growing momentum in the Oslo process for a CM treaty or agreement that Japan might be compelled to support if public opinion in Japan forced the issue, the Japanese urged the U.S. to consider co-sponsoring a negotiating mandate at the June and November meetings of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). End Summary.

12. (C) On June 1, MOFA Disarmament, Non-proliferation, and Science Department Deputy Director-General Masatoshi Shimbo briefed Embassy Tokyo Political Minister Counselor on the May 24-25 Lima conference on cluster munitions, which Shimbo had attended. The DDG stressed that there had been no change in the Japanese position and that Tokyo still sought to balance security and humanitarian concerns. Japan agrees with the U.S. that cluster munitions are necessary and that the issue is best addressed in the CCW. Shimbo said Japan welcomes U.S. implementation of changes to CM that would limit civilian casualties.

European Support Thin

13. (C) There had been considerable support for the CCW among participants at the Lima meeting, according to Shimbo. Even the Peruvians indicated that the CCW and Oslo processes were not mutually exclusive and could be merged at some future

date. The Irish, Norwegian and a few other delegations did not speak out against the CCW while in Lima. He observed, however, that while European support for CCW is "widespread" it is, in his view, "thin.8

U.S. Co-Sponsor

¶4. (C) Shimbo nevertheless expressed concern about what the Japanese saw as momentum building in the Oslo process for a CM treaty or agreement that Japan might be compelled to support if public opinion in Japan forced the issue. He urged the U.S. to consider proposing and/or co-sponsoring (along with possibly the UK, Germany, and/or Australia) a negotiating mandate at both the Geneva CCW June expert,s and November plenary meetings.

Block by Proxy

¶5. (C) Shimbo warned that Japan has heard from the German delegation that supporters of the Oslo-process, frustrated by what they view as unacceptable compromises that may arise in the Geneva process, may try to block progress in the June/November CCW negotiations in order to maintain momentum in the Oslo-process discussions. Oslo-process supporters might use proxies to block the proceedings; according to Shimbo, the Mexican delegation, in particular, &can,t wait for the moment to block8 the CCW talks. He opined that the UK, Germany, and Australia are considering

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modernization/upgrades to their CM stockpiles that would allow them to accept some provisions being considered in the Oslo discussions) a move, Shimbo claimed, that would allow each of the three countries to maintain its CM stockpile while simultaneously gaining credit for addressing humanitarian concerns.
SCHIEFFER